

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/785,045	MIYAHARA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Usman Khan	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 7/2/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>6/15/2007</u> 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|---|--|

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Regarding objection to specification provided in the previous office action for failing to provide a descriptive title. Applicant has amended the title of the invention to overcome the objection to the specification.

Regarding objection to claim 1 provided in the previous office action for having two separate "first means". Applicant has amended claim 1 of the invention to overcome the objection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1 - 7 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent **claim 1**, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest "An imaging device comprising: a solid-state imaging element array including a matrix of photosensor pixels; first means for setting an effective area in the solid-state imaging element array to a first region during a first mode of operation of the imaging device, and setting the effective area to a second region during a second mode of operation of the imaging device, the first and second regions being different from each other in number of photosensor pixels contained therein; a holder for retaining the solid-state imaging element array; second means for moving the holder between a first position at which an optical axis related to light incident to the solid-state imaging

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element array coincides with a center of the first region and a second position at which the optical axis coincides with a center of the second region; third means for fixing the holder at the first position during the first mode of operation of the imaging device, and fixing the holder at the second position during the second mode of operation of the imaging device; fourth means for generating a first picture signal from signal components generated in the first region of the solid-state imaging element array during the first mode of operation of the imaging device; and fifth means for generating a second picture signal from signal components generated in the second region of the solid-state imaging element array during the second mode of operation of the imaging device; **wherein the second means comprises a guide bar, means for slidably supporting the holder on the guide bar, a movable member, and means for moving the holder along the guide bar in accordance with movement of the movable member.**

Regarding independent **claim 3**, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest "An imaging device comprising: a solid-state imaging element array including a matrix of photosensor pixels; first means for setting an effective area in the solid-state imaging element array to a first region during a first mode of operation of the imaging device, and setting the effective area to a second region during a second mode of operation of the imaging device, the first and second regions being different from each other in number of photosensor pixels contained therein; a holder for retaining the solid-state imaging element array; second means for moving the holder between a first

position at which an optical axis related to light incident to the solid-state imaging element array coincides with a center of the first region and a second position at which the optical axis coincides with a center of the second region; third means for fixing the holder at the first position during the first mode of operation of the imaging device, and fixing the holder at the second position during the second mode of operation of the imaging device; fourth means for generating a first picture signal from signal components generated in the first region of the solid-state imaging element array during the first mode of operation of the imaging device; and fifth means for generating a second picture signal from signal components generated in the second region of the solid-state imaging element array during the second mode of operation of the imaging device; **wherein the second means comprises a guide bar, means for slidably supporting the holder on the guide bar, a movable lever, and means for moving the holder along the guide bar in accordance with movement of the lever.**"

Regarding independent **claim 4**, the prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest "An imaging device comprising: a solid-state imaging element array including a matrix of photosensor pixels; first means for setting an effective area in the solid-state imaging element array to a first region during a first mode of operation of the imaging device; and setting the effective area to a second region during a second mode of operation of the imaging device, the first and second regions being different from each other in number of photosensor pixels contained therein; an optical system extending in front of the solid-state imaging element array; second means included in the optical

system for moving an optical axis of the optical system relative to the solid-state imaging element array; third means for controlling the second means to set the optical axis coincident with a center of the first region during the first mode of operation of the imaging device, and to set the optical axis coincident with a center of the second region during the second mode of operation of the imaging device; fourth means for generating a first picture signal from signal components generated in the first region of the solid-state imaging element array during the first mode of operation of the imaging device; and fifth means for generating a second picture signal from signal components generated in the second region of the solid-state imaging element array during the second mode of operation of the imaging device; **wherein the second means comprises a holder for retaining the solid-state imaging element array, a guide bar, means for slidably supporting the holder on the guide bar, a movable member, and means for moving the holder along the guide bar in accordance with movement of the movable member.**

Regarding **claim 2**, these claims are allowed as being dependent from allowed independent claim 1.

Regarding **claim 6**, these claims are allowed as being dependent from allowed independent claim 3.

Regarding **claims 5 and 7**, these claims are allowed as being dependent from allowed independent claim 4.

Conclusion

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Usman Khan whose telephone number is (571) 270-1131. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thru 6:45-4:15; Fri 6:45-3:15 or Alt. Fri off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Ometz can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



Usman Khan
09/10/2007
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2622



DAVID OMETZ
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER